I CLAIM:

1. A method of automatically feeding animals using an electronic feeding system having a feeding station with at least one controlled access food source, said station being controlled by a programmable processor, said method comprising locating an electronic identification device on each animal to enable each animal to be individually identified by said system, placing at least one feed source in a controlled access location, programming said processor to control the feeding of each animal, storing information from each feeding for each animal, using said stored information to control and monitor each feeding for each animal, controlling an amount of feed that can be consumed based on the identification of each animal.

2. A method of feeding animals using an electronic system having a feeding station with at least one feed source, said station being controlled by a programmable processor, said method comprising locating an electronic locating device on each animal to enable each animal to be individually identified by said system, placing said at least one feed source in a controlled access location, controlling access to said at least one feed source by each animal separately, storing information from each feeding by each animal, and using stored information for a subsequent feeding.

3. A method of feeding animals using an electronic system having a feeding station with one or more controlled access feed sources, said station being controlled by a programmable processor, said method comprising locating electronic identification devices on each animal to enable each animal to be identified individually by said system, placing said one or more feed sources in a controlled access area of said system, locating an access barrier for each feed source, programming said processor to allow access to a particular feed source or feed sources by a particular animal or animals, controlling said access, controlling an amount of each feed source consumed by each animal by opening and closing said barrier or

barriers, storing the information for each feeding for each animal, using said information to control future feeding.

4. A method as claimed in Claim 3 wherein there are at least two controlled access feed sources and said method includes the steps of controlling a type of food consumed by each animal.

5. A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein there are two or more feed sources, said method including the steps of controlling a number of feed sources that a particular animal has access to.

6. A method as claimed in Claim 1 including the step of programming said processor to cut off access for a particular animal when that animal has reached a pre-determined amount of food for that feeding.

7. A method as claimed in any one of Claims 1, 2, or 3 wherein there is a memory for said processor, said method including the steps of storing information for each animal in said memory.

8. A method as claimed in any one of Claims 1 or 2 wherein said system has electronic gates thereon for each feed source, said method including the steps of controlling an opening and closing of said gates for each animal and for each feed source.

9. A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said system has an output and said method includes the step of outputting information stored within said system to said output.

10. A method as claimed in Claim 3 wherein said barriers are gates and said method including the steps of opening and closing each gate.

11. A method as claimed in any one of Claims 1,2 or 3 wherein there is a memory and a sensor on said system, said method including the steps of operating said sensor to record first approaches to each feed source in said memory.

12. A method as claimed in any one of Claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein there is a memory and a sensor on said system, said method including the steps of operating said sensor to record first tastes of each feed source in said memory.

13.   An automatic feeding system for animals comprising a feeding station with at least one feed source, said station being controlled by a programmable processor, said animals having individual identifiers mounted thereon, said feed source being located in a controlled access area, said access being controlled by a gate, there being one gate for each feed source, said processor controlling each gate, said processor identifying each animal and opening and closing each gate for each feed source to allow access or prevent access to each feed source for each animal, determining a type and amount of each feed source consumed by each animal, storing information from said determination in a memory, said processor controlling each gate based on said information for each animal.

14.   A system as claimed in Claim 13 wherein said identifiers are embedded beneath the skin of each animal.

15.   A system as claimed in Claim 13 wherein said processor has an output electronically connected thereto.

16.   A system as claimed in Claim 15 wherein said processor is a computer.

17.   A system as claimed in Claim 13 wherein there is a memory on said processor, said processor being connected to record at least one of first approaches and first tastes of each feed source.

18.   A system as claimed in Claim 13 including load cells connected to monitor a weight of each fed source.

19.   A system as claimed in Claim 18 including a load cell to monitor a weight of each animal when said animal enters or exits said system.

20.   A method of automatically feeding animals using an electronic system having a feeding station with one or more controlled access feed sources, said station being controlled by a programmable processor, said programmable processor being connected to a reader, said reader being capable of identifying a distinct feature of each animal, said animals each having a distinct feature that can distinguish the animals from each other, said

method comprising pre-programming a feeding program for each animal, using said reader to identify each animal that approaches said station, placing said one or more feeding stations in a controlled access area of said system, locating an access barrier for each feed source, automatically controlling access to said feed sources for each animal in accordance with said feeding program for each animal including the type and amount of feed consumed by opening and closing said barrier or barriers appropriately and storing information for each feeding for each animal.

21.   A method as claimed in Claim 20 including the steps of using at least one means of identifying each animal selected from the group of an unique identifier attached to each animal, an implant to identify each animal, a retina scan and an iris scan.

22.   A method as claimed in Claim 20 including using a scanner for said reader.

23.   A method as claimed in Claim 20 wherein there are two or more feed sources, said method including the steps of controlling a number of feed sources that a particular animal has access to.

24.   A method as claimed in Claim 20 including the step of programming said processor to feed each animal.

25.   A method as claimed in Claim 20 wherein there is a memory for said processor, said method including the steps of storing information for each animal in said memory.

26.   A method as claimed in Claim 20 wherein a computer is connected to said processor, said method including the steps of downloading information from said computer to said processor and receiving information from said processor in said computer.

27.   A method as claimed in Claim 20 wherein said system contains a modem, said method including the steps of passing information to and from said system remotely through said modem.

28.   A method as claimed in Claim 20 wherein said system is connected into a local area network, said method including the steps of passing information to and from said system within said local area network.

29.   A method as claimed in Claim 20 wherein there is a memory and a
       sensor on said system, said method including the steps of operating
       said sensor to record first tastes of each food source in said memory.

30.   An automatic feeding system for animals comprising a feeding
       station with at least one feed source, said animals each having a
       distinct feature that can distinguish said animals from each other,
       said feeding station being controlled by a programmable processor,
       said programmable processor being connected to a reader, said
       reader being capable of identifying said distinct feature of each
       animal, said processor controlling access to said at least one feed
       source by each animal based on information for each animal, said
       system being constructed to open and close a barrier between said
       animals and said at least one feed source, said system having a
       memory to store information for each animal for several feedings.

31.   An automatic feeding system as claimed in Claim 30 wherein said
       barrier is selected from the group of covers, doors, physical gates
       and electronic gates.

32.   An automatic feeding system as claimed in Claim 30 wherein said
       reader is connected to conduct at least one of a retina scan and an
       iris scan on each animal to identify and distinguish each animal
       from other animals.

33.   An automatic feeding system as claimed in Claim 30 wherein said
       processor has an output electronically connected thereto to output
       information from said processor to a computer connected to said
       output.

34.   An automatic feeding system as claimed in Claim 30 wherein said
       processor is a computer.

35.   An automatic feeding system as claimed in Claim 30 wherein there
       is a sensor on said system and a memory on said processor, said
       sensor being connected to determine at least one of first approaches
       and first tastes of each food source, said processor recording
       information from said sensor in said memory.